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Agenda item 21 (*h*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.32)*]

56/44. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, and inviting various specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant international financial institutions to join in their efforts towards implementation of economic programmes and projects of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Bearing in mind the progress attained by the Economic Cooperation Organization both in its reorganization endeavours and in launching and implementing various regional development projects and programmes over the past decade,

Welcoming the endeavours of the Economic Cooperation Organization in regard to consolidating its ties with the United Nations system and with relevant international and regional organizations towards the furtherance of its objectives,

Recalling that one of the main objectives of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization is to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Expressing grave concern at the prevalent drought and its devastating impact on the socio-economic situation of some States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/42 of 21 November 2000,[1] and expresses satisfaction at the enhanced pace of mutually beneficial interaction between the two organizations;

[1] A/56/122.

operations in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the interconnection and parallel functioning of power systems in the region;

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in opening international passenger traffic and the launching of a demonstration container train on the Almaty-Tashkent-Tehran-Istanbul route of the Trans-Asian Railway main line;

11. *Appreciates* the fact that General Assembly resolution 55/181 of 20 December 2000, on the transit environment in landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, has implications for the whole region of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

12. *Welcomes* the holding in Tehran in June 2001 of a joint Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization training course on technology management and technology transfer negotiations, which will enhance cooperation among the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in industry, particularly in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises;

13. *Notes* the increasing problem of the production, transit and abuse of narcotic drugs and their ill effects in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, notes with appreciation the commencement of phase II of the joint project of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the Drug Control Coordination Unit established in the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in July 1999, and calls upon the other international and regional organizations to assist, as appropriate, the Economic Cooperation Organization in its efforts against the drug menace in the region;

14. *Appreciates* the cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in jointly organizing the regional seminar on the fight against supranational organized crime;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the expansion of cultural ties in the region under the auspices of the Cultural Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and supports the endeavours to promote the rich cultural and literary heritage of the region through the launching of appropriate projects and programmes, with possible assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant entities;

16. *Also notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of science and technology for the development of the region and endeavours in this regard, including the establishment of the Science Foundation of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

17. *Accentuates* the significance of environmental issues, such as air and water pollution, in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies to cooperate, as appropriate, with the Economic Cooperation Organization to implement joint plans and projects to improve the situation in the region;

18. *Invites* the United Nations system, its relevant bodies and the international community to continue to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and its secretariat in strengthening their early warning systems, preparedness, capacity for timely

response and rehabilitation, with a view to reducing human casualties and mitigating the socio-economic impact of natural disasters;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the implementation of the United Nations programmes for the development of transit transport facilities in the landlocked countries of the region;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001